



## Jesus On Divorce

Mark 10:1-12

### I. A Surprising Question about Marriage and Divorce (1-2)

- **A. The Historical Context (1-2a)**
  - In the white space between Mark 9 & 10...
    - John 7-11
    - Luke 10—18:14 – nearly 30 percent of Luke's gospel.
    - 5 ½ months.
  - As Mark 10 begins, Mark has fast-forwarded from the fall of 29 AD to the spring of 30 AD.
  - Jesus is headed to Jerusalem for the Feast of Passover—the feast at which He will be murdered.

### The Final Journey to Jerusalem



### I. A Surprising Question about Marriage and Divorce (1-2)

- **A. The Historical Context (1-2a)**
- **B. The Cultural/Theological Context (2b)**
  - Cf. Matt. 19:3 - Some Pharisees came to Jesus, testing Him and asking, "Is it lawful for a man to divorce his wife for any reason at all?"

### II. The Common Sinful View of Marriage and Divorce (3-5)

- Deut. 24:1-4
- 1) This passage is not primarily teaching about biblical grounds for divorce.
- 2) This passage does not comment on the morality of divorce—it is simply tolerated and regulated.
- 3) This passage acknowledges that divorce will occur in Israel.
- 4) This passage primarily deals with a specific case, or specific circumstances that could happen if there is divorce.
- 5) This passage provided a protection for the one who did not initiate the divorce.
  - A bill of divorce...
    - (a) authenticated the end of the marriage.
    - (b) protected especially the woman from false accusations.
    - (c) confirmed the freedom to remarry.
- 6) This passage does leave open the possibility that there might be a legitimate reason for divorce and remarriage.

### Deuteronomy 24:1-4

- Key issue:
  - What does Deut. 24:1 mean by "if he finds some indecency in her"?
  - Lit., "the nakedness of a thing."
- Most common interpretations...
  - (a) Divorce was allowed only for sexual issue short of adultery.
  - (b) Divorce was allowed only for adultery.
    - There were circumstances in which divorce for adultery was a righteous choice.
    - E.g., Joseph
      - Matt. 1:19 - Joseph her husband, being a righteous man and not wanting to disgrace her, planned to send her away secretly.
    - E.g., God Himself!
      - Jer. 3:6-10

## Hard-hearted?

- What were the people rebelling against?
  - 1) Stoning the guilty party when there was adultery.
  - 2) Staying permanently in the marriage.
  - 3) Repenting of their hard-hearted, unrepentant adultery against their spouse.

## III. Our Lord's Teaching on Divorce and Remarriage (6-8)

- **A. God established the place of marriage as part of creation.**
- **B. God established the parameters of marriage.**
  - 1. The only acceptable participants.
  - 2. The only acceptable number.
- **C. God established the priority of marriage.**
- **D. God established the permanence of marriage.**
  - 8a = Gen. 2:24 quotation.
  - 8b = Jesus' own personal commentary on that text.
  - 9 = Jesus' application.
  - Mal. 2:14-16